(c) if so, whether any enquiry will be initiated on selling of kidney by the poor people in Southern India for economic benefits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994 confers authority on the State Governments concerned to appoint by a notification one or more officers as Appropriate Authorities for the purposes of the Act with powers to grant registration to hospitals for removal, storage or transplantation of any human organ, to suspend or cancel such registration, to enforce such standards as may be prescribed, to investigate any complaint of breach of any provision of the said Act or any Rules made there under and inspect hospitals periodically. This Act has been adopted by all States (excluding Andhra Pradesh which has its own Act) except Bihar. Provisions exist under sections 18 to 21 of the said Act to discourage trading In human organs.

Progress in NLCP

529. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are satisfied with the progress of National Leprosy Control Programme; and

(b) if not, the measure contemplated to improve the effectiveness of this programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. The objective of the National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP) is to bring down prevalence rate of leprosy to less than 1 case per 10,000 population at national level by 2004-05. The Prevalence Rate has come down from 57.6/10,000 at the beginning of the NLEP in 1981 to only 4.2/ 10,000 population as on March, 2002. The leprosy elimination status has been achieved in 12 States/UTs where as another 4 States/UTs are very near to this goal.

(c) The existing strategy of NLEP will continue with more decentralized efforts and with the aim of complete eradication of leprosy from India.